

# SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 43/Number 7 December 2011



## Our Christmas Message

Dear fellow residents:

On October 27, 2011, our community changed forever with the loss of **Kelli Joy O'Laughlin**, one of our many beloved children in Indian Head Park. In a community as small as ours, the reverberations from her tragic death are still felt by her family, friends, and all of us throughout our Village. Who can know of the circumstances of her death at such a tender age and not be touched in some way? Those who knew Kelli Joy intimately describe her as a positive and cheerful spirit. She was an energetic and passionate friend who loved tennis. No doubt, we have been moved by her death, but more importantly, we were touched by her life as well. Indeed, we all will grieve her loss for quite some time. We will remember her, and we are taking steps to prevent this from happening again.

Notably, the legacy of this charming, talented, young lady is beginning to take form. The outpourings of support from our community as demonstrated in part by the White Ribbons that adorn our Village and neighboring communities serve to highlight a sense of unity. In commemoration of her short but precious life, we must continue that sense of unity by working together in the same spirit of purpose and cooperation we observed since the days following Kelli's death. Neighbors must work with each other and watch out for one another. There is some purpose in God's plan that Kelli Joy lived. It may be beyond human capacity to understand that, but I firmly believe that there is one there. As evil as the crime was that took her from us, somehow there will be a resulting goodness in some way as a gift from Kelli Joy. It may be as simple as a continuation of the community spirit of unity exemplified by the white ribbons adorning our neighborhoods shown in support of the O'Laughlin family following the tragedy.

In any event, we all have the power to remember her and carry forward in our hearts and our minds the spirit of unity of those White Ribbons. What better Christmas present could we have? Our community joins the O'Laughlins in grieving the loss of their beautiful, bright daughter, who brought joy to everyone around her and who had so much to give the world.

It is no surprise to me at the outpouring of support from our residents, neighbors, and surrounding police departments in the course of the homicide investigation. Accordingly, I want to take this opportunity on behalf of our entire Village to thank our Chief, Police Department and the officers of the South Suburban Major Crime Task Force for their efforts in connection with the investigation and apprehension of the man responsible for the death of Kelli Joy. Also, thank you to all those

individuals and businesses that provided food, refreshments, and other acts of kindness to the Police during this time. They are too numerous to name here without fear of accidentally omitting someone or they have expressed their wish to remain anonymous. We are also grateful to those who donated money for a reward for the apprehension of the criminal. For your information, because the criminal was captured in the course of the police investigation and no one person was entitled to the reward, it was decided to refund the reward money to the donors. Many have indicated their intention to contribute to the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Fund. In this regard, the firm of **Storino, Ramello, and Durkin**, our Village Attorneys who traditionally have donated funds on our behalf to a charity of our choosing, will be making a donation in our name to the Kelli Joy O'Laughlin Memorial Fund. We are grateful to them and to everyone for their support.

No doubt, all of us feel shock, anger, revulsion, grief, and sorrow caused by this senseless act. How do we respond? What could we have done? What do we do now? All of these are good questions whose answers must be determined through a methodical common sense approach rather than by emotion. Some things take time to do right. We intend to do them right!

There are two points of information I want to share with you. First, the Village is in the process of working out details for a lasting memorial for Kelli Joy. We have been receiving input from various sources in this regard. Ultimately, whatever is decided upon will be done so with input from the O'Laughlin family. Please allow them time to grieve and heal as much as possible.

Second, residents should note that I have appointed **Village Clerk Joseph Consolo, Trustees Anne Bermier and Matt Walsh, and Police Chief Frank Alonzo** as the **IHP Neighborhood Watch Oversight Council** to facilitate the implementation of a village-wide Neighborhood Watch program. Also, we have enhanced our Village website by the addition of a Crime Alert page and are exploring the availability, benefits, and costs involved with other means of communication with our residents. We will let you know more about this later when the information becomes available.

In addition, in case you did not know, our Police Department provides a security inspection service for residents. You may contact our Police Department at 708-246-4534 to request an

*continued on page 2*

## Message continued from page 1

inspection. An officer will come to your home by appointment to inspect your premises and offer suggestions for enhanced security. Please see the Crime Alert page on our website for current information and timely pointers this holiday season. Unquestionably, this has been a difficult year in our Village. Yet, despite the past difficulties, our Village will continue to move forward and deal with the pressing issues facing us. Fortunately, despite the gloom around us in light of our recent tragedy, we do have reason to rejoice and be thankful at the Village level and in our personal lives. I am grateful to those of you who shared your concerns with me or voiced your thanks during the past year. All input submitted in the spirit of cooperation is appreciated and respected!

In closing, on behalf of our Village Board of Trustees, Administrative staff, Public Works and Police departments, I want to wish everyone a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. With your support, we can make it so!

*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Respectfully,  
Richard S. Andrews, mayor

## TRADING POST

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Be ready . . . for holiday parties! Tap beer cooler and dispenser. Holds a keg. CO<sup>2</sup> tank and lines included. \$175.00. Call Gene at (708) 207-6294.

### Smoke Signals

(708) 246-3137

### Volume 43, Number 7

Circulation 2000

*Smoke Signals* is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

[www.indianheadpark-il.gov](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov)

## Scheduled Meeting Dates

**Village Board of Trustees: 7:30 p.m.**

Thursday, January 12, 2012

**Planning and Zoning Commission: 7:30 p.m.**

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

**Fire and Police Commission: 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, January 5, 2012

**E-911 Board: 6:30 p.m.**

No meeting scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

## Municipal Code Reference – Display of Street Number

*(Section 8.40 of the Municipal Code)*

Residents, please be aware that the Village Code requires the proper display of home addresses that are clearly visible from the roadway. The purpose this ordinance was approved several years ago was to provide emergency service agencies (such as the Indian Head Park Police Department and Pleasantview Fire Protection District) the ability to find your residence should they be called to your home and need to find your location. The display of your address helps them to find your home more easily. For single family residences, the size of the street numbers shall be no less than four inches in height and the color of the letters should be different from the contrast background of the residence. Multi-family occupant dwellings containing two or more units the numbers should be placed on the front and rear of the buildings.

### VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

(708) 246-3080

[www.indianheadpark-il.gov](http://www.indianheadpark-il.gov)

### Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and

Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

### Mayor:

Richard S. Andrews

### Trustees:

Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman  
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauffer  
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

### Village Clerk:

Joseph V. Consolo

### Chief of Police/ Administrator:

Frank Alonzo, Jr.

### Police Dept.

Non-Emergency 246-4534

**Emergency 9-1-1**

### Fire Dept.

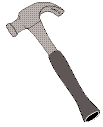
Non-Emergency 352-9229

**Emergency 9-1-1**

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## TEEPEE TOPICS

Our deepest condolences to the O'Laughlin family and friends on the loss of Kelli O'Laughlin, age 14. Kelli was a freshman at Lyons Township High School, she was an honor student, she loved to play tennis and will be missed by everyone. Our sympathies to the family of Marlies Perthel, who passed away. Marlies was the wife of former Village President Werner Perthel, at one time she served as Deputy Village Clerk for the Village of Indian Head Park, she served as Secretary to the Building and Planning Department and went on to serve as Village Manager for the Village of LaGrange for twelve years. Marlies was responsible for many economic development projects in LaGrange and instrumental in making downtown LaGrange a destination. Our sympathies also to the family of Harry J. Messmore, Jr. M.D., age 89, who recently passed away. Harry was a long time resident of Indian Head Park, he was a U.S. Army World War II veteran, he served many years as a physician at Loyola Medical Center and Hines VA Hospital and he was a Professor Emeritus at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine.

As a reminder, an alarm system permit is required to maintain residential alarm systems prior to the installation of home security devices. For further details, please contact the Indian Head Park non-emergency number at (708) 246-4534 to request an application so information can be maintained on file.

Congratulations to Alex Pall who ran in the annual Frank Lloyd Wright race in October in Oak Park. Alex won first place in the run with over 280 runners competing. His parents Mike and Mary are very proud of him. Congratulations to the following Indian Head Park students in the news who earned status on the honor roll: Pleasantdale Middle School: Alyssa Brillisour, Olivia Lata, Nicole Lata and Nicholas Piento. Highlands Middle School: Kayla Bradley, Margretts Ciessau, Maxim Holzhuetter, Cayla Hultmark, Philip Kim, Luke Lopez, Kiera Prinz, Nicole Stevens, Alexander Ciessau, Marisol Cowan, Robert Harlow, Brandon Hayes, Parrish Jonen, Paige McMahon, Avery Millard, Sarah Smolik, Grace Brannen, Bridget Brodlo, Marisa Capizzano, Haylee Donovan, Jakub Kundzicz, Quinn Madarang, Timothy O'Malley, Shayna Prinz, Marianne Soriano, Cole Tuisl, Hope Walsh, Alicia DeGeatano, Ryan Giaco-

melli, Dylan Jones, Luke Kehle, Jacob Leonard, Mark McCarthy, Ali Nix, Alex Pall, Richard Scheer, Will Brodlo, Alex Cefalli, Riley Dominiak, Allison Fisher, James Gazis, Jeffrey Gianone, Marguerite Gronke, Will Jonen, Francesca Rogozinski, Demetrios Triantafel, Emma Watkins, Cameron Cowan, Finnegan Dowling, Garrett Hinshaw, Aidan McCauley, Aidan Metz, Melissa Rodriguez, Roland Rondez, Kyle Sexton and Julia Yelnick.

A special thank you to all of our local businesses in the community and beyond, individuals, residents and Board members that personally contributed food and beverages to the Police Department and South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force during the Kelli O'Laughlin investigation. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Advertisement

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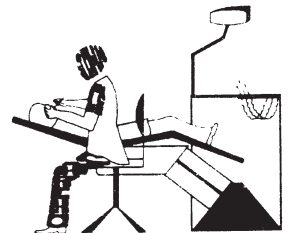
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